

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT  
**Prusi Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7840 • Fax: 517-373-3932  
E-mail: [senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38](http://www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Tuesday, April 27, 2004**

**Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi**  
**Phone: 517-373-7840**  
**Toll Free: 866-305-2038**

**LEGISLATOR UPSET WITH  
SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE CLOSURE**

*Prusi discouraged with lack of communication from Secretary Land*

**LANSING** – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) today expressed his displeasure with the lack of communication from Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and urged her to reconsider the closing of the Ishpeming office. Under the Secretary of State’s new plan, the Ishpeming office will be consolidated with the Marquette office, forcing residents from several western U.P. communities to drive further for needed services. There will be no monetary savings through the proposed plan.

“The closing of the Ishpeming office will be a major inconvenience for many residents of the Western U.P.,” Prusi said. “I am disappointed that Secretary Land failed to contact my office to discuss the effects of this closing; now thousands of residents will be forced to drive past an easily accessible office to an already overburdened office in Marquette.”

Marquette County is the largest land mass county in the state, accounting for more than 1,800 square miles and continues to see an increase in population. Under the new plan released by the Secretary of State, the Upper Peninsula will have only 15 offices serving over 16,400 square miles, or one branch for every 1,093 square miles. Under the new plan, Southeast Michigan will have one branch for every 46 square miles. For the past two years, the Secretary of State’s budget has been one of two state budgets to see an increase from general fund dollars.

“During appropriation meetings, we allocated additional dollars to the Secretary of State so that Michigan residents could receive improved services,” stated Prusi. “The closing of the Ishpeming office counters the legislature’s intent. Additionally, the supposed customer improvements will not benefit the U.P., and its residents will not see Saturday hours as proposed for downstate offices.”

#####

*Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.*